

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) Apparatus for applying ultrasonic energy to sewage slurry which comprises an applicator having an outwardly facing surface, the apparatus further including an extender which extends from the outwardly facing surface, and at least one booster at the end of the extender remote from the applicator for boosting ultrasonic energy applied thereto to cause the applicator to oscillate, wherein the applicator, extender and booster are integrally formed.
2. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the applicator has a central aperture defined by an inwardly facing surface.
3. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 2 wherein the inwardly facing surface oscillates when ultrasonic energy is applied to the apparatus.
4. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any one of~~ claim 1, 2 or 3 wherein the integral applicator, extender and booster are formed from a rolled forged, or cast, material.
5. (Currently Amended) Apparatus according to ~~any preceding claim~~ 1 wherein the integral applicator, extender and booster are formed from metal.
6. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the metal is an alloy.
7. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the alloy is a titanium-containing alloy.
8. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 5 wherein the alloy is a titanium-aluminium-containing alloy.

9. (Original) Apparatus horn according to claim 8 wherein the alloy comprises titanium, aluminium, and vanadium in a molar ratio of 6:4:1.

10. (Original) A method of manufacturing apparatus for applying ultrasonic energy, which apparatus comprises an applicator having an outwardly facing surface, the apparatus further including an extender which extends radially from the outwardly facing surface, and at least one booster at the end of the extender remote from the applicator for boosting ultrasonic energy applied thereto to cause the applicator to oscillate, the method comprising integrally forming the applicator, extender and booster by a forging and/or casting process.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10 which comprises cold forging, hot forging, enclosed forging, mould casting, die casting, low- and/or high-pressure casting.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10 or ~~11~~ which comprises rolling and forging a material to form a component from which the integral applicator, extender and booster are formed.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12 wherein the component is cut to approximate dimensions, and then machined to form the integral applicator, extender and booster.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to any one of claims 10 to ~~13~~ wherein heat and pressure are applied to a material from which the integral applicator, extender and booster are formed in an enclosed vessel.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the heat is applied to the vessel by resistance elements.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 15 wherein the resistance elements comprise molybdenum resistance elements.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 14, ~~15 or 16~~ wherein the pressure is applied by blowing gas into the vessel under high pressure.

18. (Original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the gas comprises Argon.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)